

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 and add new Claim 14 as shown below.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An improved method for the manufacture of 4-(4-Benzofuranzanyl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylic acid methyl 1-methylethyl ester comprising the steps of:

(i) reacting 2,1,3-benzoxadiazole-4-carboxaldehyde with methyl acetoacetate in the presence of acetic acid and piperidine in diisopropyl ether to obtain 2-acetyl-3-benzofurazan-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester;

(ii) isolating and purifying 2-acetyl-3-benzofuran-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester to obtain purified 2-acetyl-3-benzofuran-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester by recrystallization from a solvent;

(iii) reacting 2-acetyl-3-benzofuran-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester with isopropyl- β -aminoacrylate in ethanol to obtain 4-(4-Benzofuranzanyl)-1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-3,5-pyridinedicarboxylic acid methyl 1-methylethyl ester.

2. (ORIGINAL) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein step (iii) is carried out at 25 to 40°C.

3. (ORIGINAL) An improved process as claimed in claim 2 wherein step (iii) is carried out at 25 to 35°C.

4. (ORIGINAL) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein about 0.9 to 1.1 mol of methyl acetoacetate is used for every 1.0 mole of 2,1,3-benzoxadiazole-4-carboxaldehyde.

5. (ORIGINAL) An improved process as claimed in claim 4 wherein about 0.95 to 1.0 mol of methyl acetoacetate is used for every 1.0 mol of 2,1,3-benzoxadiazole-4-carboxaldehyde.

Appl. No. : **10/564,804**
Filed : **January 13, 2006**

6. (ORIGINAL) An improved process as claimed as claim 1 wherein acetic acid and piperidine are used in catalytic amount.

7. (ORIGINAL) An improved process as claimed in claim 6 wherein about 0.25 to 3.0 mol of acetic acid and about 0.8 to 0.06 mol of piperidine is used for every 1 mol of 2,1,3-benzoxadiazole-4-carboxaldehyde.

8. (ORIGINAL) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the 2-acetyl-3-benzofuran-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester obtained in step (ii) is crystallized from diisopropyl ether to obtain pure 2-acetyl-3-benzofuran-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester.

9. (ORIGINAL) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein about 0.9 to 1.05 mol of isopropyl- β -aminocrotonate is used for every 1 mol of 2-acetyl-3-benzofuran-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester.

10. (ORIGINAL) An improved process as claimed in claim 9 wherein about 0.9 to 1.00 mol of isopropyl- β -aminocrotonate is used for every 1 mol of 2-acetyl-3-benzofuran-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester.

11. (WITHDRAWN) A process for purification of 2-acetyl-3-benzofurazan-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester by recrystallization from a solvent.

12. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 11 wherein the preferred solvents are chosen from ethers, alcohols and mixtures thereof.

13. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 11, wherein the 2-acetyl-3-benzofurazan-4-yl-acrylic acid methyl ester thereafter is converted to isradipine.

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14. (NEW) An improved process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of an ether, an alcohol and a mixture thereof.